GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3075
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
LINEAR ACCELERATOR SYSTEM
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Linear Accelerator System for cancer therapy funded by the Department of Electronics has been developed at a cost of Rs.72.38 lakhs;

(b) if so, whether this system remained uninstalled since 1994 and the Linac Tube and Magnetron outlived their lives;

(c) if so, whether required replacement that costs Rs.30 lakhs and a further expenditure of Rs. 13.56 lakhs was incurred in refurbishment of the system; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those responsible for the lapse?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a): Yes, Sir. Linear accelerator System refers to the TOT-2 System which was to be integrated at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad.

(b) and (c): No, Sir. In fact after full integration and testing, the system was actually ready only in early 1997 at BEL,Ghaziabad. However, due to non-readiness of the Regional Cancer Center (RCC) Coochbehar, West Bengal, where this was to be installed with the necessary specially constructed radiation protected room and other essential infrastructure, the machine could not be installed. Ultimately, it became necessary to look for an alternative site and by the time this alternate site (Government Medical College Hospital, Chandigarh) was ready with the infrastructure, the efficiency of the linac tube and magnetron had become low. It was, therefore, felt that linac tube and magnetron should be replaced and only a fully refurbished and completely fit machine should be installed at the second location.

This necessitated an expenditure of Rs.30 lakhs on replacement and Rs.13.56 lakhs on refurbishment. The machine has since been installed and is now awaiting the mandatory clearance from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

(d): Being a developmental activity of a very high technology treatment equipment for cancer patients where precise time frames can not be estimated, a number of unforeseen problems do arise and there was no lapse on the part of any individual.